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Europäisches
Patentamt

Zweigstelle
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abteilung

European
Patent Office

Branch at
The Hague
Search
division

Office européen
des brevets

Département à
La Haye
Division de la
recherche

INNOGENETICS N.V.
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Industriepark Zwijnaarde 7,
Box 4
9052 Gent
BELGIQUE

22-05-2000

Datum/Date

22.05.2000

Zeichen/Ref./Réf. EP99.106.FUNG	Anmeldung Nr./Application No./Demande n°/Patent Nr./Patent No./Brevet n°. 99870109.8
Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire INNOGENETICS N.V.	

COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits

- ☒ the European search report
- ☐ the declaration under Rule 45 EPC
- ☐ the partial European search report under Rule 45 EPC
- ☐ the supplementary European search report concerning the international application under Article 157(2) EPC relating to the above-mentioned European patent application. Copies of the documents cited in the search report are enclosed.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division :

- ☒ Abstract ☒ Title ☐ Figure
 - ☐ The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.
 - ☐ The following figure will be published with the abstract, since the Search Division considers that it better characterises the invention than the one indicated by the applicant.
- Figure:
- ☐ Additional copy(copies) of the documents cited in the European search report.

REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.



EPO Form 1507 02.93



FEB 05 2001

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT															
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7) TECH CENTER 1600/2900												
X	FUJITA S -I ET AL: "MICROTITRATION PLATE ENZYME IMMUNOASSAY TO DETECT PCR-AMPLIFIED DNA FROM CANDIDA SPECIES IN BLOOD" JOURNAL OF CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGY,US,WASHINGTON, DC, vol. 33, no. 4, 1 April 1995 (1995-04-01), pages 962-967, XP002053345 ISSN: 0095-1137 * the whole document * ---	1-3,7,8	C12Q1/68												
X	ELIE C M ET AL: "Rapid identification of Candida species with species-specific DNA probes" JOURNAL OF CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGY,US,WASHINGTON, DC, vol. 36, no. 11, 1 November 1998 (1998-11-01), pages 3260-3265, XP002086007 ISSN: 0095-1137 * the whole document * ---	1-3,7,8													
X	SHIN J H ET AL.: "Rapid identification of up to three Candida species in a single reaction tube by a 5' exonuclease assay using fluorescent DNA probes" JOURNAL OF CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGY, vol. 37, no. 1, 1999, pages 165-170, XP000874684 * see especially page 166, column 1, paragraph 3 - column 2, paragraph 2, as well as table 1 * * the whole document * ---	1-3,8	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7) C12Q												
D,X	US 5 426 027 A (LOTT TIMOTHY J ET AL) 20 June 1995 (1995-06-20) * the whole document * --- -/--	1-3,8													
1 -The present search report has been drawn up for all claims															
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 11 February 2000	Examiner Knehr, M												
<table border="0"><tr><td>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</td><td>T : theory or principle underlying the invention</td></tr><tr><td>X : particularly relevant if taken alone</td><td>E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date</td></tr><tr><td>Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category</td><td>D : document cited in the application</td></tr><tr><td>A : technological background</td><td>L : document cited for other reasons</td></tr><tr><td>O : non-written disclosure</td><td>& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</td></tr><tr><td>P : intermediate document</td><td></td></tr></table>				CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS	T : theory or principle underlying the invention	X : particularly relevant if taken alone	E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date	Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category	D : document cited in the application	A : technological background	L : document cited for other reasons	O : non-written disclosure	& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	P : intermediate document	
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A : technological background	L : document cited for other reasons														
O : non-written disclosure	& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document														
P : intermediate document															

EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	WO 98 11257 A (SHIN JONG HEE ; REISS ERROL (US); US HEALTH (US); HOLLOWAY BRIAN (U) 19 March 1998 (1998-03-19) * see especially the claims * * the whole document *	1-3,8	
X	--- BOTELHO A R AND PLANTA R J: "Specific identification of Candida albicans by hybridization with oligonucleotides derived from ribosomal DNA internal spacers" YEAST, vol. 10, 1994, pages 709-717, XP000874680 * abstract *	1,3,7,8	
D,X	--- WO 99 06596 A (GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATE) 11 February 1999 (1999-02-11) * the whole document *	1,3,8	
D,X	--- WHITE T ET AL: "AMPLIFICATION AND DIRECT SEQUENCING OF FUNGAL RIBOSOMAL RNA GENES FOR PHYLOGENETICS" US, SAN DIEGO, ACADEMIC PRESS, 1989, pages 315-322, XP002017490 * see especially table 1 * * the whole document *	1,2	
A	--- DATABASE GENBANK [Online] Accession number (AC): Y14001, 1997 ZAKIKHANI S AND KAPPE R: "Internal transcribed spacers (ITS1) of the ribosomal cluster of Candida albicans" XP002130403 * abstract *	9,10	
1 The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 11 February 2000	Examiner Knehr, M
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
D,A	NHO S ET AL: "Species differentiation by internally transcribed spacer PCR and HhaI digestion of fluconazole-resistant Candida krusei, Candida inconspicua, and Candida norvegensis strains" JOURNAL OF CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGY,US,WASHINGTON, DC, vol. 35, no. 4, 1 April 1997 (1997-04-01), pages 1036-1039, XP002086004 ISSN: 0095-1137 * the whole document *		
A	WO 96 21741 A (CIBA CORNING DIAGNOSTICS CORP ;SANDHU GURPREET S (US); KLINE BRUCE) 18 July 1996 (1996-07-18) * the whole document *		
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
<div>1</div> <div>The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</div>			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 11 February 2000	Examiner Knehr, M
<div>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</div> <div>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</div> <div>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</div>			

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 99 87 0109

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

11-02-2000

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5426027	A	20-06-1995	US	5688644 A	18-11-1997
			US	5645992 A	08-07-1997
			US	5631132 A	20-05-1997
			US	5635353 A	03-06-1997

WO 9811257	A	19-03-1998	AU	4482897 A	02-04-1998
			EP	0927269 A	07-07-1999

WO 9906596	A	11-02-1999	AU	8673498 A	22-02-1999
			EP	0996745 A	03-05-2000

WO 9621741	A	18-07-1996	US	5763169 A	09-06-1998
			US	5707802 A	13-01-1998
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			AU	4313896 A	31-07-1996
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			CA	2209247 A	18-07-1996
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			JP	11500305 T	12-01-1999
			PL	321139 A	24-11-1997
			US	5958693 A	28-09-1999

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

To:
INNOGENETICS N.V.
 Intellectual Property Dept
 Industriepark Zwijnaarde 7
 B-9052 Ghent
 BELGIUM

INVITATION TO PAY ADDITIONAL FEES

(PCT Article 17(3)(a) and Rule 40.1)

00-121902150.
19-12-2000

Applicant's or agent's file reference 106-PCT	Date of mailing (day/month/year) 15/12/2000
International application No. PCT/EP 00/ 04714	International filing date (day/month/year) 24/05/2000
Applicant INNOGENETICS N.V.	

1. This International Searching Authority

- (i) considers that there are 13 (number of) inventions claimed in the international application covered by the claims indicated ~~below~~ on the extra sheet:

and it considers that the international application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention (Rules 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3) for the reasons indicated ~~below~~ on the extra sheet:

- (ii) ☒ has carried out a partial international search (see Annex) ☐ will establish the international search report on those parts of the international application which relate to the invention first mentioned in claims Nos.:

see extra sheet first invention

- (iii) will establish the international search report on the other parts of the international application only if, and to the extent to which, additional fees are paid

2. The applicant is hereby invited, within the time limit indicated above, to pay the amount indicated below:

EUR 945,00 x 12 = EUR 11.340,00
 Fee per additional invention number of additional inventions total amount of additional fees

Or, _____ x _____ = _____

The applicant is informed that, according to Rule 40.2(c), the payment of any additional fee may be made under protest, i.e., a reasoned statement to the effect that the international application complies with the requirement of unity of invention or that the amount of the required additional fee is excessive.

3. ☐ Claim(s) Nos. _____ have been found to be unsearchable under Article 17(2)(b) because of defects under Article 17(2)(a) and therefore have not been included with any invention.

Name and mailing address of the International Searching Authority European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer Catherine Humbert
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**Annex to Form PCT/ISA/206
COMMUNICATION RELATING TO THE RESULTS
OF THE PARTIAL INTERNATIONAL SEARCH**

International Application No
PCT/EP 00/04714

1. The present communication is an Annex to the invitation to pay additional fees (Form PCT/ISA/206). It shows the results of the international search established on the parts of the international application which relate to the invention first mentioned in claims Nos.:
- 1-5, 19-23**
2. This communication is not the international search report which will be established according to Article 18 and Rule 43.
3. If the applicant does not pay any additional search fees, the information appearing in this communication will be considered as the result of the international search and will be included as such in the international search report.
4. If the applicant pays additional fees, the international search report will contain both the information appearing in this communication and the results of the international search on other parts of the international application for which such fees will have been paid.

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	FUJITA S -I ET AL: "MICROTITRATION PLATE ENZYME IMMUNOASSAY TO DETECT PCR-AMPLIFIED DNA FROM CANDIDA SPECIES IN BLOOD" JOURNAL OF CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGY, US, WASHINGTON, DC, vol. 33, no. 4, 1 April 1995 (1995-04-01), pages 962-967, XP002053345 ISSN: 0095-1137 the whole document	1-4, 19, 20
X	ELIE C M ET AL: "Rapid identification of Candida species with species-specific DNA probes" JOURNAL OF CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGY, US, WASHINGTON, DC, vol. 36, no. 11, 1 November 1998 (1998-11-01), pages 3260-3265, XP002086007 ISSN: 0095-1137 the whole document	1-4, 19, 20



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- "&" document member of the same patent family

**Annex to Form PCT/ISA/206
COMMUNICATION RELATING TO THE RESULTS
OF THE PARTIAL INTERNATIONAL SEARCH**

International Application No

PCT/EP 00/04714

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	SHIN J H ET AL.: "Rapid identification of up to three Candida species in a single reaction tube by a 5' exonuclease assay using fluorescent DNA probes" JOURNAL OF CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGY, vol. 37, no. 1, 1999, pages 165-170, XP000874684 * see especially page 166, column 1, paragraph 3 - column 2, paragraph 2, as well as table 1 * the whole document ---	1-4,20
X	US 5 426 027 A (LOTT TIMOTHY J ET AL) 20 June 1995 (1995-06-20) cited in the application the whole document ---	1-4,20
X	WO 98 11257 A (SHIN JONG HEE ;REISS ERROL (US); US HEALTH (US); HOLLOWAY BRIAN (U) 19 March 1998 (1998-03-19) * see especially the claims * the whole document ---	1-4,20
X	BOTELHO A R AND PLANTA R J: "Specific identification of Candida albicans by hybridization with oligonucleotides derived from ribosomal DNA internal spacers" YEAST, vol. 10, 1994, pages 709-717, XP000874680 abstract ---	1,4,19, 20
X	WO 99 06596 A (GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATE) 11 February 1999 (1999-02-11) cited in the application the whole document ---	1-4,12, 20
X	WHITE T ET AL: "AMPLIFICATION AND DIRECT SEQUENCING OF FUNGAL RIBOSOMAL RNA GENES FOR PHYLOGENETICS" US,SAN DIEGO, ACADEMIC PRESS, 1989, pages 315-322, XP002017490 cited in the application * see especially table 1 * the whole document ---	1-3
Y	DATABASE GENBANK [Online] Accession number (AC): Y14001, 1997 ZAKIKHANI S AND KAPPE R: "Internal transcribed spacers (ITS1) of the ribosomal cluster of Candida albicans" XP002130403 abstract ---	1-5, 19-22
	-/--	

**Annex to Form PCT/ISA/206
COMMUNICATION RELATING TO THE RESULTS
OF THE PARTIAL INTERNATIONAL SEARCH**

International Application No
PCT/EP 00/04714

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	<p>DATABASE GENBANK [Online] Accession number (AC): Y14002, 1997 ✓ ZAKIKHANI S AND KAPPE R: "Internal transcribed spacers (ITS1) of the ribosomal cluster of Candida albicans" XP002153730 abstract</p>	1-5, 19-22
Y	<p>--- WO 98 50584 A (CHOI JONG SOO ;REISS ERROL (US); GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATE (U) 12 November 1998 (1998-11-12) ✓ * see especially the claims * the whole document</p>	1-5, 19-23
Y	<p>--- LÖFFLER J ET AL.: "Comparison of different methods for extraction of DNA of fungal pathogens from cultures and blood" JOURNAL OF CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGY, vol. 35, no. 12, 1997, pages 3311-3312, ✓ XP000961790 cited in the application * see especially page 3311, column 2, paragraph 2 * the whole document</p>	1-4,23
A	<p>--- WO 95 29260 A (CIBA GEIGY AG ;LIGON JAMES M (CH); BECK JAMES J (US)) 2 November 1995 (1995-11-02) ✓ cited in the application the whole document</p>	
A	<p>--- JORDAN J A: "PCR identification of four medically important Candida species by using a single primer pair" JOURNAL OF CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGY, vol. 32, no. 12, 1994, pages 2962-2967, ✓ XP000961788 cited in the application the whole document</p>	
A	<p>--- NHO S ET AL: "Species differentiation by internally transcribed spacer PCR and HhaI digestion of fluconazole-resistant Candida krusei, Candida inconspicua, and Candida norvegensis strains" JOURNAL OF CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGY,US,WASHINGTON, DC, vol. 35, no. 4, 1 April 1997 (1997-04-01), pages 1036-1039, XP002086004 ISSN: 0095-1137 cited in the application the whole document --- -/--</p>	

**Annex to Form PCT/ISA/206
COMMUNICATION RELATING TO THE RESULTS
OF THE PARTIAL INTERNATIONAL SEARCH**

International Application No
PCT/EP 00/04714

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>WO 96 21741 A (CIBA CORNING DIAGNOSTICS CORP ;SANDHU GURPREET S (US); KLINE BRUCE) 18 July 1996 (1996-07-18) the whole document -----</p>	

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: 1-4, 19-23 (partial); 5 (complete)

INVENTION 1:

A method to detect and identify the fungal pathogen *Candida albicans* in a sample, and an oligonucleotide molecule according to SEQ ID Nos:1-3,33-35, or a variant sequence thereof, suitable for use in such a method.

2. Claims: 1-4, 19-23 (partial); 6 (complete)

INVENTION 2:

A method to detect and identify the fungal pathogen *Candida parapsilosis* in a sample, and an oligonucleotide molecule according to SEQ ID Nos:4-5, or a variant sequence thereof, suitable for use in such a method.

3. Claims: 1-4, 19-23 (partial); 7 (complete)

INVENTION 3:

A method to detect and identify the fungal pathogen *Candida tropicalis* in a sample, and an oligonucleotide molecule according to SEQ ID Nos:6,36, or a variant sequence thereof, suitable for use in such a method.

4. Claims: 1-4, 19-23 (partial); 8 (complete)

INVENTION 4:

A method to detect and identify the fungal pathogen *Candida kefyr* in a sample, and an oligonucleotide molecule according to SEQ ID Nos:7-8, or a variant sequence thereof, suitable for use in such a method.

5. Claims: 1-4, 19-23 (partial); 9 (complete)

INVENTION 5:

A method to detect and identify the fungal pathogen *Candida krusei* in a sample, and an oligonucleotide molecule according to SEQ ID Nos:9,37 or a variant sequence thereof, suitable for use in such a method.

6. Claims: 1-4, 19-23 (partial); 10 (complete)

INVENTION 6:

A method to detect and identify the fungal pathogen *Candida glabrata* in a sample, and an oligonucleotide molecule according to SEQ ID No:10, or a variant sequence thereof, suitable for use in such a method.

7. Claims: 1-4, 19-23 (partial); 11 (complete)

INVENTION 7:

A method to detect and identify the fungal pathogen *Candida dubliniensis* in a sample, and an oligonucleotide molecule according to SEQ ID Nos:11-13,38, or a variant sequence thereof, suitable for use in such a method.

8. Claims: 1-3, 12, 19-23 (partial); 13 (complete)

INVENTION 8:

A method to detect and identify the fungal pathogen *Aspergillus flavus* in a sample, and an oligonucleotide molecule according to SEQ ID Nos:18-20,42, or a variant sequence thereof, suitable for use in such a method.

9. Claims: 1-3, 12, 19-23 (partial); 14 (complete)

INVENTION 9:

A method to detect and identify the fungal pathogen *Aspergillus versicolor* in a sample, and an oligonucleotide molecule according to SEQ ID Nos:21,43, or a variant sequence thereof, suitable for use in such a method.

10. Claims: 1-3, 12, 19-23 (partial); 15 (complete)

INVENTION 10:

A method to detect and identify the fungal pathogen *Aspergillus nidulans* in a sample, and an oligonucleotide molecule according to SEQ ID Nos:22-25, or a variant sequence thereof, suitable for use in such a method.

11. Claims: 1-3, 12, 19-23 (partial); 16 (complete)

INVENTION 11:

A method to detect and identify the fungal pathogen *Aspergillus fumigatus* in a sample, and an oligonucleotide molecule according to SEQ ID Nos:26,27,40,41, or a variant sequence thereof, suitable for use in such a method.

12. Claims: 1-3, 19-23 (partial); 17 (complete)

INVENTION 12:

A method to detect and identify the fungal pathogen *Cryptococcus neoformans* in a sample, and an oligonucleotide molecule according to SEQ ID Nos:14-17, or a variant sequence thereof, suitable for use in such a method.

13. Claims: 1-3, 19-23 (partial); 18 (complete)

INVENTION 13:

A method to detect and identify the fungal pathogen *Pneumocystis carinii* in a sample, and an oligonucleotide molecule according to SEQ ID Nos:28-32, or a variant sequence thereof, suitable for use in such a method.

1. Numerous prior art documents describe PCR primers as well as species-specific oligonucleotide probes, suitable to amplify and hybridize to internal transcribed spacer regions (ITS) deriving from pathogenic fungi. W09811257 (D1) discloses nucleic acid probes for the specific detection of *Candida* and *Aspergillus* species, following prior amplification of the ITS1/ITS2 region. Likewise, US5426027 (D2) discloses amplification of the ITS1/ITS2 region from fungi, allowing succeeding probing for *Candida albicans* as well as for *Cryptococcus neoformans*. In addition, Botelho and Planta, YEAST, 10, 709-717 '1994! (D3), as well as W09906596 (D4) disclose the specific detection of *Candida* species using nucleic acid probes deriving from ribosomal internal spacer regions. Finally, W09850584 (D5) discloses specific probing for *Aspergillus* and other fungi species using probes deriving from the ITS2 region.

2. In view of the prior art, the problem of the underlying application can be defined as the provision of further genus- and species-specific probes deriving from the ITS-1 or ITS-2 region, and their use in a method for specifically detecting defined pathogenic fungi.

3. Each of the 43 oligonucleotide probes as claimed represent an independent solution concerning the problem of the underlying application. Solution 1 is the provision of SEQ ID NO:1 suitable for the specific detection of *Candida albicans*. Likewise, solution 2 is the provision of SEQ ID NO:2 suitable for the specific detection of *Candida albicans*...Finally, solution 43 is the provision of SEQ ID NO:43 suitable for the specific detection of *Aspergillus versicolor*.

4. In view of the fact that oligonucleotide probes specifically suitable within methods for the detection of ITS1 or ITS2 ribosomal regions deriving from pathogenic fungi are already disclosed in the prior art, due to essential differences in primary structure, and due to the fact that the search division could not find any other technical feature which, in the light of the prior art, could be regarded as special technical feature common to these solutions, the ISA is of the opinion that there is no single inventive concept underlying the plurality of 43 solutions of the present application in the sense of rule 13.1 PCT. Consequently, there is a lack of unity, and different inventions, not belonging to a common inventive concept, are formulated as the different subjects on the communication pursuant to Art. 17(3)(a) PCT.

5. However, taking into account the balance between necessary search effort and the levying of additional fees, the ISA has taken the decision to combine oligonucleotide probes suitable for the detection of the very same fungal species (i.e. combining SEQ ID NOS:1-3,33-35, all suitable for the specific detection of *Candida albicans*) into one group of inventions. The number of (groups of) inventions has therefore been reduced to 13.

Patent Family Annex

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/EP 00/04714

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5426027	A	20-06-1995	US 5688644 A	18-11-1997
			US 5645992 A	08-07-1997
			US 5631132 A	20-05-1997
			US 5635353 A	03-06-1997
WO 9811257	A	19-03-1998	AU 720037 B	18-05-2000
			AU 4482897 A	02-04-1998
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WO 9850584	A	12-11-1998	AU 7366098 A	27-11-1998
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			AT 189703 T	15-02-2000
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			CN 1147276 A	09-04-1997
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			AU 693625 B	02-07-1998
			AU 4313896 A	31-07-1996
			BR 9607497 A	23-12-1997
			CA 2209247 A	18-07-1996
			EP 0804619 A	05-11-1997
			JP 11500305 T	12-01-1999
			PL 321139 A	24-11-1997
			US 5958693 A	28-09-1999